Act XXI of 1860 under the overall control of Governing Body to provide dwelling units for Railwaymen on 'No profit No loss' basis. Member Staff/ Railway Board and Ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India, functions as the Chairman of the Governing Body.

(b) No, Sir. These employees are not railway employees but employees of a society as indicated in reply to part (a) of the question.

(c) and (d) A committee has already been set up by the Governing Body of IRWO to review the Organisational Structure, remunerations and terms and conditions of the service of officers and staff of IRWO.

Doubling of Dchri-On-Sonc-Yadnathpur railway track in Bihar

4559. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to take up the doubling of the Dehri-On-Sone-Yadnathpur Via Banjari railway track in Bihar;

(b) if so, how can it be possible as no railway track exists on this route; and

(c) if not, how the Railway Minister announced this survey programme in his Railway Budget speech on 26th February, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A survey has been taken up for construction of a new broad gauge line but it has inadvertantly been mentioned as survey for doubling in the budget speech. It is clarified that the survey is for construction of a new line. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Length and conversion of Metre Gauge Line into Broad Gauge and Cost thereof

4560. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of metre gauge network still in operation in the country;

(b) whether schemes have been prepared to convert this entire network into the broad gauge system; and

(c) in case the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, the total investment cost that will be necessary for the conversion and the period over which the work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The total length of metre gauge network (Route kilometres) still in operation on Indian Railways is 18,501 kms. (latest available figures as on 31.3.1996).

(b) Only those lines required on urgent operational and strategic considerations are proposed to be converted in a phased manner. At present only about 15,966 kms. of MG/NG lines have been identified for conversion.

(c) The details of cost of conversion of the lines identified can be known only after detailed surveys. However, 6000 kms. MG/NG lines are targetted for conversion in 9th Five Year plan.

Introduction of Shatabdi Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikkodc

4561. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Shatabdi Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikkodc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Diversion of Shramjeevi Express to Faizabad

4562. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal to divert Shramjeevi Express from Sultanpur to Faizabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not feasible due to operational difficulties besides resistance from those who will be deprived of the available service.

Purchase of ABB Locomotives

4563. SHRI DIPANKER MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRI MD. SALM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount invested in procuring 6000 HP Asia Brown Bovery (ABB) locomotives;

(b) the number of locomtives procured and the year of procurement;

(c) the number of above locomotives commissioned, so far freight and passenger trains and the lines/sectors where they are running;

(d) the number, still on trial run and the reasons for keeping the locomotives idle, if any, and;

(c) the return on investment till date via-a-vis load and speed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 738 cr. (approx has been invested in procuring 30 nos. high horse power AC three phase Electric Locomotives and 3 Nos. locomotives as bank of spares. These locomotives have been procured during 1995-96 and 1996-97.

(c) and (d) So far, 10 pasenger and 11 freight locomotives have been deployed to haul train services on Howrah-Delhi sector of Eastern and Northern Railways and all these locomotives are at various stages of service trials. The remaining 9 freight locomotives are at various stages of assembling and testing at Chitaranjan Locomotive Works and are planned to be turned out with in the next 5 months.

(e) It will be possible to evaluate return on the investment only after the trials are completed on full loads/speeds and locomotives are put in regular use.

Acquisition of land in Margao by KRC

4564. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Konkan Rail Corporation (KRC) in Goa sector wants to acquire 40 lakh sq. mts, of laud at Margao, Goa;

(b) if so, whether this land grabbing by using draconian land Acquisition Act will deprive fanners of rice cultivable land and other land being purchased at throwaway price; and

(c) if so, whether KRC will be told to drop the idea of acquiring land at Margao?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.